

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 DHA-02  
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R 201130Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3206  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
USMISSION BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION NATO

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ROME FOR AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, CZ  
SUBJECT: HUSAK CONGRATULATES CZECH CARDINAL TOMASEK

REF PRAGUE 1523

1. AS ONE OF HIS LAST OFFICIAL ACTS BEFORE LEAVING JULY 15 FOR HIS  
ANNUAL VACATION IN SOVIET UNION, CZECHOSLOVAK PRESIDENT AND CPCZ  
GENERAL SECRETARY GUSTAV HSUAK CONGRATULATED FRANTISEK CARDINAL  
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TOMASEK ON HIS ELEVATION TO CARDINAL, REVEALED IN ROME JUNE 2 (REFTEL  
).

2. CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS AND BROADCAST MEDIA HAVE CARRIED STORY  
THAT CARDINAL TOMASEK, APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF PRAGUE ARCHDIOCESE  
,  
OFFICIALLY INFORMED PRESIDENT HUSAK OF HIS ELEVATION TO CARDINAL

IN A CAREFULLY-WORDED LETTER IN WHICH ACCORDING TO EXCERPT IN RUDE PRAGO JULY 15, HE SAID "AS A CITIZEN OF OUR COMMUNITY I HIGHLY VALUE AND HOLD IN ESTEEM ALL THOSE POSITIVE VALUES WHICH ALLOW US TO LIVE WITH A GUARANTEE OF OUR MATERIAL NEEDS, SOCIAL CERTAINTIES, AND A LIFE OF PEACE. WITH REGARD TO THESE SOCIAL VALUES, NOT EVEN THOSE OF OUR PEOPLE WHO ARE BELIEVERS WILL STAND TO ONE SIDE INACTIVELY. THEY WILL ALWAYS LEND A HAND TO GOOD SOCIAL WORKS, IN ORDER THAT BY HONEST DAILY WORK ALL THAT IS NEEDED SHOULD BE MULTIPLIED AND PRESERVED."

3. PRESIDENT HUSAK IS SAID TO HAVE REPLIED: "I VALUE YOUR STATEMENT THAT AS A CITIZEN OF OUR HOMELAND, AS A HIGH AND RESPONSIBLE CHURCH OFFICIAL, YOU VALUE ALL THE POSITIVE VALUES THAT OUR SOCIALIST STATE HAS CREATED FOR THE GOOD OF MAN. WE HAVE AN INTEREST IN A POSITIVE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH OUR STATE IS CONDUCTING WITH THE HOLY SEE, AND IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MUTUALLY GOOD RELATIONS. I GLADLY TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION YOUR WISH TO INFLUENCE THESE NEGOTIATIONS." BESIDES CONGRATULATING THE CARDINAL ON HIS ELEVATION, HUSAK WISHED HIM GOOD HEALTH, PERSONAL HAPPINESS AND SATISFACTION.

4. THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR, WHO KEEPS ABREAST OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS IN PRAGUE, TOLD AMBASSADOR BYRNE BEFORE HE LEFT THAT CARDINAL TOMASEK HAD RECEIVED MANY HURRAHS AND CHEERS WHEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HE APPEARED IN PUBLIC AFTER HIS ELEVATION BECAME KNOWN, SUGGESTING THAT EVEN IN SECULARIZED AND SUBDUED PRAGUE THERE IS A MEASURE OF INTEREST AND PRIDE IN TOMASEK'S ACHIEVEMENT, WHICH THE REGIME MAY FIND IT POLITICALLY EXPEDIENT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT.

5. COMMENT: SO FAR THE REGIME HAS PLAYED TOMASEK'S ELEVATION TO CARDINAL AS AN EVENT BEARING PRIMARILY ON CZECHOSLOVAK EXTERNAL RELATIONS WITH THE VATICAN, WHICH APPEAR TO BE SLIGHTLY MORE ON THE UPSWING. INDICATIONS THAT A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN INTERNAL CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS MIGHT BE IN THE OFFING ARE SLIGHT. HOW THE VATICAN TIES AN IMPROVEMENT IN GOC-HOLY SEE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS TO A CONCOMITANT IMPROVEMENT IN CHURCH-STATE RELATIONSHIP WITHIN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD SEEM TO BE A MAJOR QUESTION AT THIS STAGE AS WOULD THE LATITUDE MOSCOW ALLOWS PRAGUE IN RESOLVING THE LONG-STANDING DEADLOCK IN THIS RELATIONSHIP.  
FROWICK

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES, RELIGIOUS LEADERS  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** HUSAK CONGRATULATES CZECH CARDINAL TOMASEK  
**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, CZ, (HUSAK, GUSTAV), (TOMASEK, FRANTISEK)  
**To:** STATE  
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